



Date: March 17, 2014

To: Executive Board

From: Duane Bay  
Assistant Planning and Research Director

Subject: **Regional Prosperity Plan (HUD Grant)**

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to update the Executive Board on the Regional Prosperity Plan (RPP) progress to date, describe the links to Plan Bay Area implementation, and request input on sharing the RPP knowledge with local jurisdictions. Assets developed through the RPP project include substantial knowledge on economic and housing strategies, local institutional and planning capacity, and collaborative relationships.

## **Regional Prosperity Plan Overview**

The Regional Prosperity Plan is a three-year initiative funded by a \$5 million grant to ABAG and MTC through the Sustainable Communities Partnership Program of HUD. The RPP will support the implementation of Plan Bay Area with respect to economic mobility and opportunities for low- and moderate-income workers, production and preservation of affordable housing close to transit, and neighborhood stabilization in communities at risk of displacement.

The Regional Prosperity Plan (RPP) has brought together a broad consortium comprising representatives of non-profit organizations, business organizations, and public agencies, working at both the local and regional scale, in a consensus-based process to ensure that historically under represented stakeholders have a place at the table. This work of aligning common interests from stakeholders with different perspectives is being advanced through dozens of studies and pilot projects funded by the RPP. See attachments for a description of the RPP consortium structure (Attachment 1), list of projects (Attachment 2) and project descriptions (Attachment 3). Within the RPP pool of projects, ABAG is responsible for the Affordable Housing Funding Gap Analysis, Regional Development Tracking Dashboard, and the Fair Housing Equity Analysis. These projects are built upon existing resources at ABAG and contribute to our efforts on affordable housing.

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### Links to Plan Bay Area Implementation

The Regional Prosperity Plan projects are addressing three key challenges embedded in the implementation of Plan Bay Area. These projects facilitate public dialogue and awareness and they develop or test strategies to address these challenges. First, the retention of a healthy economy while wages are increasingly polarized will require major efforts to expand middle-income jobs, better working conditions for low-wage jobs, and improved access to jobs and housing. Second, the deepening drought of federal and state subsidy for affordable housing development and preservation means that even effective efforts to find sites and foster community support are likely to fall short of planned production levels, impacting the regional economy, neighborhood improvement, and quality of life. Third, the displacement risk of residents and business in jurisdictions that attract major investment requires specific local strategies to increase community stability and regional strategies to address increasing suburban poverty.

Each grantee's final report will include recommendations linked to the achievement of RPP goals and supportable by the grantee's findings. These recommendations may call for specific actions or more general strategies. These final grantee reports will inform an RPP Summary Report which may include, for example, an action matrix matching potential strategies, policies, or actions to various consortium member organizations and others involved with Plan Bay Area implementation. The Summary Report would invite but not require RPP consortium members to consider taking various actions that further the common goals of the RPP and Plan Bay Area. ABAG, MTC and other consortium member organizations would bring forward study and/or actions items to their governing boards through appropriate internal channels such as their stakeholder advisory committees and/or the policy subcommittees.

As currently envisioned, the Summary Report would also serve as a platform for engaging organizations and sectors that have been less involved in Plan Bay Area implementation, and for advancing a public dialog to solve regional challenges.

As we enter the third and final year of the Regional Prosperity Plan project it is timely to consider how ABAG can build upon, and exercise stewardship over, the substantial public investment in RPP-generated assets ABAG has helped to produce. These assets are strengthening Plan Bay Area Implementation at three levels

1. *knowledge* of regional conditions and the potential effectiveness of piloted solutions;
2. *capacities* of consortium members to fashion actionable proposals honed through stakeholder vetting to strengthen feasibility; and
3. *collaborative relationships* across sectors, and bridging local/regional perspectives

We invite Executive Board members to suggest what the most effective processes might be for sharing these assets with local jurisdictions, particularly the outcomes of studies and pilot projects.

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### **Next Steps**

All of the projects funded by the HUD grant are now underway. As projects move toward completion and the Joint Project Team (coordination committee) oversees compilation of results and preparation of a summary report, the following events are planned.

June 2014	Report to the Regional Planning Committee on work-in-progress and more in-depth presentations of several projects that are nearing completion
Fall 2014	Recommendations report to Administrative Committee on how to sustain a high level of collaboration with RPP consortium partners at a sustainable cost, and how to integrate RPP outputs into on-going Plan Bay Area implementation work
Fall 2014	At an all-day conference, grantees will present and discuss work-in-progress
Spring 2015	Capstone conference will feature release of a draft summary report.
Spring 2015	Report to the Executive Committee on completion of RPP, and follow-up actions

#### **Attachments:**

Attachment 1, Structure of Regional Prosperity Plan (RPP) consortium

Attachment 2, Summary List of Project Funded by RPP

Attachment 3, Detailed List of Project Funded by RPP